

Please replace the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

The present invention is to provide a method wherein a cell-specific expression/replication vector that express and replicate a gene specifically in specific cells such as malignant tumors and the like and does not injure normal cells, particularly a vector that can suppress the expression/replication at a desired period after the expression/replication is constructed, for the use in therapies for such as malignant tumors and the like, and treatment is conducted by introducing the vector to a particular living cell such as malignant tumor and the like for expression. A cell-specific expression/replication vector that does not act to adult normal cells is constructed by: a transcriptional initiation regulatory region of human calponin gene that is expressed in smooth muscle cell specifically is obtained; said region is linked upstream of the replication-related gene of virus such as ICP4 and the like; a DNA that encodes proteins such as suppressive factor for tumor angiogenesis or apoptosis-related factors and the like is linked via IRES to said replication-related gene of the virus; and thymidine kinase gene in an intact state is integrated into a viral DNA. This vector thus constructed is infected and introduced to malignant tumor cells, and malignant tumor cells are selectively disrupted. The present invention provides a cell-specific expression/replication vector, and a method of treatment comprising introducing a cell-specific expression/replication vector into specific cells such as malignant tumors in order to selectively disrupt the specific cells. A vector according to the invention is constructed by: obtaining a transcriptional initiation regulatory region of human calponin gene that is specifically expressed in smooth muscle cell; linking the above region upstream to a replication-related gene

of a virus such as ICP4 and the like; linking DNA that encodes a protein such as suppressive factor for tumor angiogenesis or apoptosis-related factors and the like via IRES to the replication-related gene of the virus; and integrating a thymidine kinase gene in an intact state into the viral DNA.